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Point Lobos Reserve and Monterey Bay Area

On Sunday, February 12, 1939, Mr. and Mrs. Albert B. Stephens and the writer visited Point Lobos Reserve, reaching there about 9 a. m. The sky was overcast until about 10 o'clock, when the clouds began gradually to disappear, and by 11 o'clock it was clear and fairly warm. A mild wind was blowing in from the ocean. Atmospheric and lighting conditions for birding were well-nigh perfect.

As we stopped at the park entrance we heard frequently the call of the Pygmy Nuthatch coming from the nearby Monterey pines, indicating that several of these little birds were busily engaged in their quest for food. Also two immature Red-tailed Hawks were perched in the trees just east of the warden's house, but our stopping disturbed them and they left the grove.

From the gateway we went toward the southern boundary of the reserve to look at Bird Island, which is the northernmost breeding place of the California Brown Pelican. We counted fifty-five individuals of this species. Cormorants and Western Gulls also nest here.

As we walked in a northerly direction along the shore line, we closely scrutinized inlets and rocks in an effort to locate the Black Oyster-catcher, but none was seen until about midway between China Cove and Pebble Beach, where Mrs. Stephens called our attention to one flying toward the latter spot. We took particular notice of the rock upon which it alighted, and as we reached this point we saw four of these unusual-looking birds upon an offshore rock about fifty yards distant, with perfect conditions for close observation. Bird lovers can readily understand and appreciate the thrill at this sight. A few moments later a fifth one arrived, calling as he came, thus giving us the opportunity of seeing five in one group, an unusual occurrence, and also hearing their rather distinctive call. Nature gives this bird a protective coloring, for its slatey, black body against a dark background makes it difficult to locate, but what intrigues one is the red bill, almost transparent, and at times the only visible feature likely to attract attention.

We saw the picturesque Road-runner on a knoll near Mound Meadow. After it disappeared in the nearby brush, we heard several times its mating call, a series of cooing notes, perhaps an early record.

We saw and heard the California Brown Thrasher as we walked to and from Cypress Point, the sole remaining natural grove of Monterey cypress. Few birds were noted in the grove itself, but on the northeast side of a steep rock near the end of the main point, we counted fifteen Baird Cormorants apparently preparing for nesting.

We cannot leave Point Lobos Reserve without expressing our appreciation to those who gave of their time, energy and ability to establish and maintain this park for posterity, so fittingly described by the noted painter, Francis McComas, as "the greatest meeting of land and water in the world."

About 4 p. m. we reached Carmel marsh, where we flushed a Burrowing Owl, also several Lincoln Sparrows. The bird banding station of Mr. Laidlaw Williams

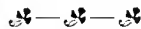
located at his mother's home was the next object of interest to us. Within 100 feet from the front gate we saw four male Cinnamon Teal. Our final stop was at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Williams, whose generous hospitality brought to a close a most delightful day.

On Monday, the 13th, at about 9 a. m., we visited the Monterey Estero. Here we counted eight species of gulls, including the rather rare Glaucous. The action of this gull while under observation was unusual. Mr. Williams had joined us and all were closely looking at it through field glasses. It was not more than fifty yards distant and in the midst of many other gulls, yet obviously it became conscious of our close observation, and by reason thereof nervous, for it, alone, took flight and left the Estero. We saw the Bonaparte Gull on the Monterey beach, leaving but one not seen, the Sabine.

From the Estero, we went to the Hopkins Marine Laboratory, where we saw three additional Black Oyster-catchers. We also saw from this point the Holboell Grebe, Marbled Murrelet and Rhinoceros Auklet. We continued on following the shore line until we reached a small pool near the roadside, not far distant from the lighthouse. Here we saw two Florida Gallinules, a Sora Rail, one Black Brandt, a Great Blue Heron, several Shoveller Ducks, two Tree Swallows, three Green-winged Teal and a Savannah Sparrow.

Our last stop was at Moss Landing, where we identified twenty-three species, making a total of 102 for the trip.

Joseph J. Webb, San Francisco, California. February 20, 1939.



Injured Mallards Attended by Mates

While I was talking to some people on the opposite side of a drain ditch that enters Decker's Lake, Utah, on the west side, they noticed a duck in the cat-tails just below me. It was a hen mallard using this clump of cat-tails for concealment.

Before reaching this point I had flushed the drake. The lake was frozen except for a strip on the west side. Thousands of ducks were on the ice along and in this water strip. A little more freezing would have been fatal to injured birds, and I like to think as it appeared that this drake had led his mate to the running water, which not only assured her safety from freezing in the ice but provided food and concealment.

I observed a similar exhibition of the marital fidelity of a drake mallard one cold winter day on the Jordan River, a little south of town, where hundreds of mallards and other ducks had repaired to bridge over a cold spell that had frozen all the fresh water except the streams of the valley. Near this point a large spring run enters the river that is rich in fresh water vegetation and insect life. Here the ducks came at night to feed. Along the side of the river where this stream enters, the ducks spend the day or until disturbed, when they generally strike off in a body to spend the balance of the day on the unfrozen, briny waters of Great Salt Lake.

I had flushed the ducks along the way and most of them had departed for the lake as they were very wild. As I continued along the river bank a mallard drake rose out of the bordering cat-tails within twenty-five or thirty feet of me. I thought this unusual for all the other ducks were so wild and not less than 100 had left the immediate area a few minutes before. The cat-tail border at this point was from ten to twenty feet wide and the shallow water within it frozen. At one place, however, there was an opening or arm of some ten feet of unfrozen water. Here at the edge of the ice in an overhanging clump of cat-tails was an injured female mallard. Her mate had stayed by until danger threatened, then he flushed, not so much to escape as to detract attention from his helpless mate. I left the little water area well supplied with wheat, alfalfa, and clover seed and went my way.

C. W. Lockerbie, Salt Lake City, Utah.

September Field Trip

The September field trip was taken to Alameda and Bay Farm Island on the 24th to observe shore birds. Along the water's edge on Bay Farm Island, particularly on a Sunday, the presence of picnic groups and numerous persons fishing deprives the birds of their natural loafing grounds. At one point on the other side of the highway we discovered several hundred sandpipers huddled together in the bare field. They might easily have been overlooked as their colors blended very effectively with their surroundings.

In another field where great quantities of fruit pits had been dumped we noted both sandpipers and land-birds feeding on the numerous fruit flies present.

Twenty-six species were observed, as follows:

Pintail Duck	Western Sandpiper	California Jay
Sparrow Hawk	Marbled Godwit	Pipit
Clapper Rail	Sanderling	Shrike
Killdeer	Northern Phalarope	English Sparrow
Black-bellied Plover	Western Gull	Meadowlark
Western Willet	Bonaparte Gull	Red-winged Blackbird
Greater Yellow-leg	Forster Tern	Brewer Blackbird
Least Sandpiper	Horned Lark	Savannah Sparrow
Long-billed Dowitcher	Barn Swallow	

Members attending were Mr. and Mrs. Stephens; Mrs. Kelly; Misses Berg, Blake, Cohen, Paroni, Sterne; Messrs. Greenhood, Holmes, Kirker, Power, Taylor, and three guests: Misses Bumbough, Richardson and Young.



California Bird Days

California bird days were held in the California Building on Treasure Island, September 23rd to 26th inclusive, under the direction of Mrs. Jane Amundsen, Director of Art Exhibition for the California Commission. The purpose of the exhibition was to promote interest, knowledge, appreciation and enjoyment of California birds.

On display were original water-colors and oils by Major Allan Brooks, a water-color of the Western Tanager by Frank Tose of the California Academy of Sciences, crayon drawings by Fred Kline of Santa Cruz, and two cases of mounted birds lent by the California Academy of Sciences. Eighty-four dioramas of birds in their natural habitats lent by the Visual Education Department of the Berkeley Schools attracted a great deal of interest.

Commander Parmenter exhibited three originals from the octavo edition of Audubon of the Violet-green Swallow, Pygmy Nuthatch and Rough-legged Hawk; two reproductions from the elephant folio edition, copper engraved and hand painted, of the Mourning Dove and Baltimore Oriole; two originals from "British Ornithology," one print of the Sanderling was whatman paper watermarked 1826, and the other of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper and Knot watermarked 1829; an original stone lithograph hand colored of the White-fronted Goose from "Birds of Britain," and one of the White-necked Stilt from the "Birds of Australia."

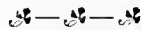
Miss Kathleen Dougan exhibited some very interesting and artistic photographs of birds taken by herself and told of her experiences in obtaining them. Mr. Milton S. Ray gave much pleasure by bringing to the building a live Nightingale which he brought from Wirral, England, two years ago. Mr. Ray exhibited some photographs of English birds and a number of skins of brilliantly colored tropical birds and eggs. He also played for us a number of records of English bird songs. Mrs. Albert B. Stephens showed a chart of twenty pictures of birds seen on Treasure Island together with the dates and places where observed.

Many books were lent by the San Francisco Public Library, the California Academy of Sciences, and by individuals. Among them was an original seven-volume edition of 1856 with 500 hand-colored plates of "Birds of America," by

John James Audubon; "American Ornithology on the Natural History of the Birds of the United States," engraved and colored from original drawings from nature, by Alexander Wilson, 1808, lent by our member Mr. Lee L. Stopple; two volumes of "Birds of North America," by Theodore Jasper, Columbus, Ohio, 1878, lent by the San Francisco Public Library. There were many other interesting books, including copies of the "Game Birds of California," by Grinnell, Bryant and Storer; "Birds of California," by Dawson; "Birds," by Gayle Pickwell; "The Hawks of North America," by John Bichard May; "Birds of America," by Louis Agassiz Fuertes; "The Book of Birds," by the National Geographic Society; two bound volumes of THE GULL, and so many others that some had to be displayed in a room across the hall.

The program consisted of several talks given by Mr. Bert Harwell, Park Naturalist of Yosemite National Park, and by Mrs. Bertha Rice. Dr. T. Eric Reynolds showed some very interesting motion pictures of the Condor, Black-necked Stilt and other birds, telling of his experiences with them.

The ladies of the Audubon Association of the Pacific acted as hostesses. It was gratifying to see the interest shown by the public.



Audubon Notes

October Meeting: The regular meeting will be held on Thursday, the 12th, at 8 p. m., in room 19, Ferry Building.

The speaker will be Dr. Tracy I. Storer, Professor of Zoology, College of Agriculture, University of California at Davis, whose subject will be "Some Structural Features of Birds."

Members may bring guests.



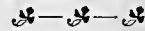
October Field Trip will be taken on Sunday, the 15th, to the fields and marshes in the vicinity of Rodeo, Contra Costa County. There should be a goodly number of shore-birds, and this is an interesting tramp for those interested in geology, including fossil remains.

San Francisco members take the 8:56 a. m. Southern Pacific train from the San Francisco Terminal to Berkeley Station. Those going by automobile please meet the group there. The route will be along the Aquatic Park in Berkeley and then to Rodeo to the park-

ing space near the railroad tracks. Those coming from Marin County may meet at Rodeo about 11 o'clock.

Those desiring or having transportation space please contact the Chairman of Field Trips, Miss Blake, at the monthly meeting at the Ferry Building.

Bring luncheon and dinner for an evening at East Bay Regional Park, back of Berkeley, at the fireplace at Camp No. 2. Leader, Harold Kirker.



September Meeting: The 265th regular meeting was held on the 14th, in room 19, Ferry Building, with thirty-four members and guests present.

Mr. David G. Nichols was elected to membership.

Mrs. Kelly, as speaker of the evening, gave a vivid account of her visits to Pyramid and Mono Lakes. She spoke of the variety of birds she saw, brought plant specimens from the sagebrush country, and photographs of the geologic formations.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President.....	Mrs. G. Earle Kelly.....	1311 Grand St., Alameda, Calif.
Corresponding Secretary.....	C. B. Lastreto.....	260 California St., San Francisco
Treasurer.....	Mrs. A. B. Stephens.....	1695 Filbert St., San Francisco

Monthly meeting second Thursday, 8 P. M., Room 19, Ferry Building.

Address Bulletin correspondence to Mrs. A. B. Stephens, Editor, 1695 Filbert St., San Francisco.

Membership dues, payable January 1st, \$3.00 per year.

Student memberships, \$1.50 per year.

Life memberships, \$50.00.

Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer.